FAREWELL TO KRYPTON
SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS
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HOW WE DOING, SMALLVILLE?
MEASURED BY WHAT STANDARD?
THE "DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE HELL WE ARE AND WHETHER OR NOT WE'RE GOING TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET THERE" STANDARD!
DON'T QUOTE ME, LOIS...

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RETURN TO KRYPTON
PART FOUR
There's a reason homecoming is so well attended... it only happens once a year. You can survive almost anything that happens only once a year...
Clark Kent, Daily Planet, February 2001
BUT I THINK WE FOUND IT.
GREAT RAO...
DID YOU JUST SAY--
SORRY... KRYPTONIAN MOMENT.

escape from
KRYPTON
JOE-KEL
WRITER
KANO-EL
PENCILLER
MARLO-EL
INKER
ROB-EL
COLORS
COMICRAFT-EL
LETTERS
TOM-EL
ASS'T EDITOR
EDDIE-EL
EDITOR-EL
SUPERMAN
Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

NO APOLOGIES NECESSARY...
MY FATHER DESIGNED IT. GUSHING IS OKAY.
THE EXPANSIONIST MOVEMENT HAS APPARENTLY BEEN USING IT AS A SECONDARY BASE FOR MONTHS.
YOU WOULD THINK THEY WERE SAFE FROM ZOD AND THE COUNCIL AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PLANET.
AT LEAST THE SCENERY WILL BE NICE FOR THE LAST STAND. ONE QUESTION...
...WHAT'S WITH THE GIANT KEY?
UM... GIANT KEY HOLE?
WHAT, YOU LOSE YOUR POWERS AND INVULNERABILITY -- SO SUDDENLY YOU'RE "SHECKY-EL"?
WE'RE BEING HUNTED DOWN ON A PLANET THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO EXIST, RACING TO MEET MY "DEAD" BIRTH PARENTS --
-- WITH NO CLUE WHETHER WE ROYALLY SCREWED UP TIME AND SPACE SIMPLY BY COMING HERE...
DESPERATE HUMOR JUST SEEMS TO FIT, DON'T YOU THINK?

THERE THEY ARE, JOR-EL, BUT —
NODE-GENERATOR. IT GETS CLOSE ENOUGH, IT'LL OVERRUN US WITH COUNTLESS DRONES...
IPH-RO, TELL ME THE FORTRESS STILL WORKS TO SPECS?
CLARK... EITHER I NEED A BIGGER GUN OR --
DON'T SAY IT... DON'T EVEN THINK IT. JUST HANG ON...
STEADY... STEADY...
COME ON, BOY... COME ON...
NOW!
SKEWWWW

CHOOOM
-- NEWS HAS REACHED THE GOLDEN MOUNTAIN! THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE KEPT QUIET --
FORGET JOR-EL! THE ALIEN! HOW MUCH LONGER WILL THIS ALIEN POLLUTE KRYPTON?!
YOU SWORE JOR-EL WOULD BE IN CAPTIVITY BY NOW! THIS IS HARDLY A MILITARY OPERATION --
AND YOU THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A GIANT KEY.
I HAVE ONE WORD FOR YOU. "HEADBANDS AND SUN ON HIS CHEST," OKAY?
THANKS FOR NOT GETTING US KILLED.
ANY TIME.
GENTLEMEN...
NO... GENTLEMEN IMPLIES THAT SOMEWHERE BENEATH YOUR ROBES OF OFFICE, MEN RESIDE...
CHILDREN... SIT UP STRAIGHT AND PAY CLOSE ATTENTION...
A HERETICAL TERRORIST AND A FILTHY ALIEN HAVE ATTACKED OFFICERS OF THE STATE. UNLAWFULLY ORGANIZED AN ARMED MILITIA --
-- AND CURRENTLY PLOT TO UNLEASH A WEAPON THAT WILL DESECRATE THE SANCTITY OF THE PLANET KRYPTON --
-- BECAUSE YOU ALLOWED THEM TO DO SO!

HOW DARE YOU, ZOD --?!
THE COUNCIL HAS TOLERATED THE ABUSES OF THE HOUSE OF EL FOR YEARS...
...DESPITE MY VOICE OF DISSENT --
AND NOW, YOUR INEPTITUDE HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO THE GREATEST DISASTER SINCE THE TRAGEDY OF KANDOR!
NO LONGER. TODAY, I WILL END THE REIGN OF THE TERRORIST JOR-EL... AND WHEN ALL IS DONE --
-- I WILL MARCH TO KRYPTONOPOLIS WITH HER SONS AND DAUGHTERS, AND WE WILL WALK THROUGH THE SACRED CHAMBER OF THE COUNCIL HALL --
-- AND I WILL DISBAND IT PERMANENTLY.
THAT'S TREASON! YOU'RE MAD --
ENOUGH.
"RUN TO YOUR SOCIAL CLUBS AND CONSTITUENTS TO BAWL AND MOURN THE LOSS OF YOUR PRECIOUS SEATS --
"-- WHILE I SAVE OUR WORLD FROM ITSELF... AND THE HERETIC JOR-EL."

EASY, KAL... EASY...
THERE'S NO TIME FOR "EASY," JOR-EL. ZOD IS --
EASY, SON... SPARE A SECOND OR REGRET A LIFETIME.
...
I'M SORRY. WAS THAT TOO FAMILIAR?
NO -- NO, I JUST -- IT'S FINE...
ARE WE READY?
ARE WE EVER TRULY READY TO FACE OUR DESTINIES, KAL-EL?
I'M SORRY... THINKING OUT LOUD. SOMETHING LARA SAYS I'M PRONE TO DO WHEN I'M NOT IN CONTROL OF A SITUATION.
I AM VERY, VERY... OUT OF MY DEPTH HERE.

THIS MACHINE WAS DEVISED TO TRANSMIT SIGNALS BETWEEN WORLDS... NOT PEOPLE.
WE HAVE THE ORE THAT YOU SECURED TO OPEN A PORTAL INTO YOUR SO CALLED "PHANTOM ZONE"...
THE PHYSICS INVOLVED HERE... I'VE LITERALLY HAD TO RETHINK THE STRUCTURE OF MY UNIVERSE IN A DAY -- I --
I DON'T WANT TO FAIL YOU, KAL-EL.
YOU WON'T.
THE MACHINE NEEDS TIME TO PROCESS THE ORE. THEN ONCE IT DOES, WE WILL HAVE A VERY SMALL WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU AND LOIS TO ENTER THE PORTAL.
THAT LEAVES US TIME TO HELP YOU WITH ZOD.
NO! WHEN THE PORTAL IS FULLY PRIMED, YOU MUST --
I OPENED A DOOR COMING HERE, JOR-EL.
ACCIDENT OR NOT, I INTEND TO SHUT IT. BESIDES...
...IT WOULD BE AN HONOR.
FOR ME TOO... FOR ME TOO.
THE SHIELD.

FOR THE PURITY OF KRYPTON!
FOR ZOD!

EXTERMINATE THE TERRORISTS
KA-BOOM
BUT JOR-EL AND THE AL-EN ARE MINE!

AS ONE OF US STANDS, KAL-EL, SO SHALL THE OTHER. IF ONE FALLS —
WE'RE NOT FALLING, NOT TODAY.

FOR KRYPTON!
FOR KRYPTON.

WE'RE GETTING WASTED IN HERE! HOW MANY ERADICATOR ROBOTS DOES THIS MANIAC HAVE?!
AS MANY AS HE CAN FABRICATE WITH THAT DEATH GENERATOR OF HIS!
THEN CAN YOU TELL ME WHY WE'RE PLAYING WITH TIN MEN WHEN THERE'S A BATTLE PLATFORM TO BE WRECKED?
DO THEY HAVE A SAYING ABOUT "GREAT MINDS" WHERE YOU COME FROM, LOIS?
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW HOW LONG I'VE WAITED TO DO THIS.
HNNGH
SO PLEASE MAKE IT LAST.

YEARRGH!
ALIEN. IN THE FLESH
SOMEHOW I THOUGHT YOU'D BE TALLER. HMM
WELCOME TO KRYPTON, FILTH.
PWHAMM
KAL-EL!
NO!

"KAL-EL"? HA. HAS HE TAKEN YOU AS A PET OR SOMETHING?
PATHETIC. FOR AN OFF-WORLD NOVELTY, HE WOULD RISK HIS CAREER, HIS FAMILY — MY HOME.
MY HOME TOO, ZOD
IT SPEAKS TOO! LOUDER, DOG! BARK FOR YOUR MASTER!
I SAID
KRYPTON IS MY HOME TOO!
I AM KAL-EL OF THE HOUSE OF EL --!
AND I HAVE COME HOME!

THERE! THE SECOND COMPUTER BANK IT CONTROLS THE EXTERNAL DEFENSES --
THE KIDS BACK HOME ARE NEVER GOING TO BELIEVE THIS ONE --

E
WASH
AIIEGH!
LARA! NO!

YOU'RE THE WORST THIS PLANET HAS TO OFFER! FEAR! PREJUDICE!
YOU'RE EXACTLY WHAT I CAME HERE TO DISPROVE!
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN YOUR HOLE, DOG TRUTH WILL PREVAIL --

I AM KRYPTON!
AND MY BLOOD WOULD NEVER SPAWN AN ABOMINATION SUCH AS YOU!
PWAMM

I'M OKAY, LOIS! BODY ARMOR!
FOCUS ON THE CONSOLE! PICK A TARGET AND FIRE! HURRY!
OKAY, I --
OH BOY LARA...?
WHAT'S THE CHANCE OF GETTING A CRASH COURSE 'N WRITTEN KRYPTONIAN?!
VERY, VERY SLIM
I WOULD RATHER HAVE SEEN THE PLANET PERISH UNDER HER OWN STEAM --
CRAKK
-- THAN HAVE HER DEFILED BY YOUR TOUCH!
THE STRENGTH OF KRYPTON IS IN ITS PURITY. ITS SOLITUDE. IN MY VISION!
IT'S NOT YOUR KRYPTON ANY LONGER, ZOD.
THIS... THIS IS THE KRYPTON OF MY FATHER'S DREAMS...

SHA
KOWW
I DIDN'T SAVE EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET, ZOD --
-- JUST SO YOU COULD MURDER MY SON.
YOU BROUGHT A CANCER TO OUR PLANET, JOR-EL YOU WILL --
ZRRAKK
ENOUGH
YEARRGH!

STAND. HURRY --
YOU KNEW?
LATER.
JOR-EL RACE TRAITOR! HISTORY WILL DECRY --
ZOD, I SHATTERED THE POWER CONDUITS OF THE ARMOR. IT'S GOING TO MELTDOWN!
CHOOM
NEVER! ZOD DOES NOT KNEEL! ZOD DOES NOT FALL!
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, I WILL RAIN VENGEANCE ON THE HOUSE OF EL!

ARRRRRR
NOT TODAY, YOU WON'T.
SKIEROWW

HOW DID YOU LEARN KRYPTONIAN?
I DIDN'T. I POUNDED IT AND SCREAMED UNTIL SOMETHING EXPLODED.
PANIC IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION.
NOW TO FIND JOR-EL AND --

-- GET OUT OF... HERE.

NOW. YOU MUST GATHER LOIS AND --
NO! THERE'S STILL SO MANY OF THEM -- AND THE COUNCIL --!
WITHOUT ZOD, THE ERADICATORS WILL FALL, AND THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LISTEN TO ME -- TRULY LISTEN. BESIDES...

I'M YOUR FATHER AND I SAID SO.
THE ORE HAS REACHED OPTIMAL CHARGE. THE PORTAL IS UNSTABLE, AND TIME IS SHORT --
YEAH... TIME IS ALWAYS TOO SHORT WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST. THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO ASK... TO SAY...
...DOES LARA KNOW?

I GUESS THIS IS...
PLEASE... DON'T SAY IT. JUST -- DON'T.
PROMISE ONLY TO LOVE HIM.

I'D IMAGINE THAT SHE KNEW THE SECOND SHE LAID EYES ON YOU.
LIKE MOST WIVES, LARA IS INFINITELY MORE WISE THAN HER HUSBAND.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.

KAL-EL... IS THIS REAL? ANY OF THIS? WHAT I'VE GLEANED FROM YOUR BEING HERE, THE PORTAL... IT'S BAFFLING... IT --
PLEASE TELL ME IT'S REAL?

I CAME HERE ASKING THE SAME QUESTION, AND THE TRUTH IS... I HAVE NO IDEA.
I'M LEAVING WITH MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS ABOUT MY HISTORY... THE PLACE I COME FROM...
BUT ONE THING... ONE THING IS INDISPUTABLY TRUE...

"HOW I FEEL... ABOUT YOU BOTH...
"HOW PROUD I AM TO BE YOUR SON."

PLEASE TELL ME THIS WORKED. PLEASE TELL ME WE'RE BACK ON NON-ALTERNATE-NON-ORWELLIAN-PLAIN OLD EARTH.
SUPERMAN! LOIS!
THANK EINSTEIN, YOU'RE BACK! WE'D LOST YOUR BEACON SIGNALS AND JOHN HENRY LEFT TO RECALIBRATE --
-- BUT YOU'RE BACK. THAT'S WHAT MATTERS... DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
YEAH... DID YOU?
KRYPTO?!
HARF HARF
A DOG?! GOOD GOD, MAN! WHAT WENT ON IN THERE?!
YOU KNOW, EMIL... I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE SOLID IDEA --
-- JUST THAT IT WAS WONDERFUL...
...SOMETHING WONDERFUL.

ELSEWHERE. SOMEPLACE... WONDERFUL.
THERE WAS SO MUCH... SO MUCH I WANTED TO TELL HIM. BUT THE WORDS...
COME ON, JOR... THE COUNCIL AWAITS. WE CAN BROOD OVER THIS WRECK OF A MACHINE LATER --
-- IT WOULD BE RUDE FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT TO KEEP HIS PUBLIC WAITING.
LARA, DO YOU THINK... WE'LL EVER SEE HIM AGAIN?
THE WORLD IS A WONDERFUL PLACE, JOR-EL, WHERE ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN...
WHAT DOES YOUR HEART TELL YOU?
MY HEART...?
BETTER YET...
...WHAT DOES YOUR HAND TELL YOU?
MY HAND...?
YOU... YOU'RE --
YES. YES.
SO FOR THE NEXT NINE MONTHS... PERHAPS YOU SHOULD WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO TELL LITTLE KAL-EL...
I WOULD HATE FOR YOU TO GET DISTRACTED AND FORGET.
KAL-EL. KAL-EL...
PERFECT... ISN'T IT?
A PERFECT DREAM.
A PERFECT WORLD.